

**Older Adult Services Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2015 – 3:30 PM
HCS Dept. – Conference Rm. F**

Members Present: Chair Don Ryan, Clinton Lewis, Kimberly Middleton, Beulah Price, Kelly Quardokus, Ros Robbert, Beverly Solik, Commissioner Larry Provancher

Members Absent: Kathy Grueter, Al Heilman, Deb Josephson

Staff: Judy Sivak, Anne Zemlick, Janice Bonita, Norma Bour, Liz Brass, Donnyel Klinger, Marilyn Reed, Beth Ridge, June Scarberry

OSA Representative: Steve Betterly

Guests: joe schmitt and Sara Wick, MSAC Delegates, Vicki Martin, Senior Services

I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman Ryan opened the meeting with welcome and introductions.

II. **Approval of February Minutes:**

Motion Carried To Approve February 2015 Minutes

**Ros R.
Kimberly M.**

III. **Citizen Time:** joe s. shared that it was a nice funeral for (past OASAC President) Verne Robbert. Judy wasn't able to make the service but attended the viewing at the funeral home.

IV. **Member Time:** Ros R. said that the founder of WMU Gerontology Department, Ellen Page Robin, died. Ros was her graduate assistant for three years. The gerontology program is reviving under the leadership of Jan Hahn who will sing at the March 21st memorial service. Ros wrote something that will be read at her service as she will be in Ireland at the time. Kimberly added that she was also a student of Ellen Page Robin.

Kimberly showed the flyer from Chalgian and Tripp Law Offices, "Court of Appeals Upends Medicaid Caregiver Policy," concerning the recently issued opinion that "has the potential to significantly impact caregiver providers in Michigan," as it relates to our discussion in February of AAALIA's draft Cost Sharing Policy. Kelly Q. added that the opinion is an "unpublished opinion". The opinion is that if a care contract isn't in place it could be considered divestment. Kelly said the next step is the Supreme Court. There has always been care contracts required with family members, because they're always suspect. Kelly said it's going to affect your clients.

Judy S. added that if you pay a friend from your church, for example, you have to have a care contract and you need a doctor's note (doctor's visit charge).

Don R. shared that the State Advisory Council meeting was dealing with Vets. One thing that was brought up was a recommendation that OSA revise intake forms from the current question "Are you a veteran?" to ask "Have you ever served in the military?," because many don't consider themselves a vet even though they served and therefore aren't getting benefits they're entitled to. Don said it's an interesting experience serving on this committee. KellyQ. added that Michigan is last in the country for vets applying for benefits. Sara W. added that Sen. O'Brien wants to dig deeply into this situation of veterans not applying for benefits.

Don's going to the Secretary of State to get veteran designation on his driver license. Vets can get this to enable them to more easily show proof that they are honorably discharged veterans to access services, get discounts, etc.

Anne Z. added that we have the Veteran Community Partnership, where we partner with VA Battle Creek to learn about available resources. Our last meeting was on education and employment, and about 60 people attended.

Kimberly mentioned she knows a couple of vets who could really use services. Judy said that we here in Kalamazoo County are doing a great job (Veterans Affairs Office), and she will contact Sen. O'Brien to let her know that.

Larry P. talked about undocumented individuals who sometimes do or don't get veteran status (even though they served in the US military). He talked to someone who was undocumented who served in Afghanistan, but wasn't eligible for benefits because he said his officer lost his papers. Larry added that we need comprehensive immigration reform.

Judy asked Larry what he wants to do about his membership on the board since we already have 11 members (maximum in the Bylaws), and if we want to change the bylaws. Larry responded that he has decided to continue as a liaison which means he can't vote, but, he can have a voice.

- V. **Financial Report Review**: Judy asked for a chance to say that long-term HCS employee, Tammy Lahman, Deputy Director-Finance, retired after 33 years. She's now working part time at the Land Bank. Ryan Post, who has been here ten years, replaced her. Beth R. added that Ryan's handled everything in HCS except for AAA. Beth will be training him.

Judy didn't get financial reports reviewed and copied in time. Beth added that there's nothing significant to report, except that the new general fund money is being tracked separately.

- VI. **Advocacy Report:** Judy distributed the March KCASI flyer on Proposal 1 and Road Funding Reform. KCASI's Legislative Committee meets this week at CentraCare. Older Michiganians Day is June 2nd. The platform has not been published yet. Sara W. gave an update on what's going on with our local legislators. The members got onto the subject of DHS, reorganization/renaming of OSA to Aging and Adult Services.
- Steve B. heard that OSA is going to be fully funded. Judy also reported last time that Civil Monetary Penalty funds that helps the ombudsman program budget we were expecting to lose will likely be replaced, which is good news.
- Sara added that several legislators are having district coffees.
- Liz B. reported that she attended Friends of Transit meeting last week. CTTA decided on mil rate of .75 over five years. Public input sought get from Liz (she distributed flyer).

Judy introduced Dr. Gillian Stoltman, who joined the meeting.

- VII. **Staff Report:** Judy introduced Marilyn Reed, Master Trainer; and Norma Bour, Master Trainer; who gave an update on their Healthy Living Programs. With the funding coming in, there are a lot of expectations. It takes special people to coordinate them.
- Marilyn reported on Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls.
- Norma reported on Personal Action Toward Health (PATH, Diabetes PATH and Chronic Pain PATH).

Q&A—Kelly Q.: Can you give examples of average person who shows up for these classes. Marilyn: All types of attendees. Norma: Anyone and everyone.

Kimberly: There's "donation requested" on all but Oshtemo library.

Marilyn: Kalamazoo Public Library supports the cost of the book in the community. They also provide a healthy snack. All of our sites get a \$100 stipend to provide a healthy snack. The library says you don't have to give us a stipend either!

Norma also said the Sisters of St. Joseph have two trainers, and they are supporting these programs, too. It's not just about the numbers, it's about our citizens. Marilyn added its quality of life. And, like the AAA, it's keeping people in their home of choice. Judy added that it's really okay to ask for donations. We don't get much.

Norma said it costs an estimated \$250 per person in MI to provide the PATH program; a Stanford University cost benefit analysis revealed that there is an approximately \$390 per person savings in ER and hospital utilization for individuals who take the PATH program over those who do not. Reaching even 10% of Americans with one or more chronic conditions would save around \$4.2 billion!

Judy distributed the Dashboard for February (AAA staff report) and updated a couple of points. Judy submitted a grant proposal today to OSA for Elder Abuse Prevention. She received confirmation that the Assistant Prosecutor from San Diego is going to come here August 3rd to be the speaker if we get the funding. And, he is the keynote

speaker at the International Conference on Elder Abuse that's going to be here in Detroit. Judy's trying to take what we're trying to do here to the next level. Also, the money would be used for brochures, cards.

On the 22nd four of us will go to American Society on Aging conference in Chicago. She's proud to say we will be presenting on our LGBT work, with Jay Maddock, Kelly Jonker, and Judy. Judy signed up for trip to see the Mather LifeWays Café.

Anne Z. reported on Choices for Independence, report distributed. See the graph on the wait list, p. 2. The goal is, as our new care consultants get up to speed, you'll see the blue line go up. Anne wants to do this every month so that we will get an idea of how this is going.

At the end of March, we'll be having another Creating Confident Caregivers class at Oakland Centre facilitated by Patti Stratton.

Staff has been busy fielding questions about Mi Health Link, which is a new pilot program for dually eligible individuals (receiving Medicare and Medicaid).

Liz B. distributed the NAPIS first quarter report, which she reviewed.

Judy added that we try to do this quarterly, because that's when we get most of the reports from our providers.

Judy reported that Kelly Quardokus and Beverly S. have been working on the nursing home issues letter. Kelly Jonker asked that we postpone this as more information is coming to light.

Judy said staff met with Rep. Jon Hoadley who went out with Patti S. on a home visit.

Don R. welcomed aboard June and Donnyel; and Norma as a County employee after three years working here as a contract employee.

Motion Carried To Adjourn Meeting at 5:20 PM

**Clinton L.
Kimberly M.**

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Bonita